

KENTUCKY EARLY MATHEMATICS TESTING PROGRAM

**Agenda Item F-2
September 18, 2000**

Improving mathematics skills for Kentuckians is a high priority for education, government, and business interests. House Bill 178 (2000 regular session) directed the Council, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to select a public university to develop and administer a web-based testing program. The program would be available voluntarily to all 10th and 11th grade students at public and private high schools in Kentucky. The purpose is to reduce the number of students who require remedial mathematics in college.

In June, the Council requested proposals from the institutions. One proposal was submitted, from Northern Kentucky University. This proposal was reviewed by a panel of experts in mathematics assessment, including Dr. William H. Schmidt of Michigan State University, Director of the U.S. Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), and Dr. Robert Bernhardt, who directs a similar program for North Carolina. The Council staff is consulting with the authors of the NKU proposal to address the reviewers' suggestions, and with the Council of Chief Academic Officers about other ways to meet the mandate of HB178.

This process has paralleled other efforts to address concerns about mathematics preparation. The staff is developing a comprehensive approach to improve the mathematical skills of young and adult learners in Kentucky that will bring these approaches together with the Early Mathematics Testing Program.

- The Kentucky Virtual University and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System are exploring the purchase of a statewide license for a web-based program that would assess mathematical and other basic skills of first-year postsecondary students, define remediation needs, and provide remediation.
- The Council of Chief Academic Officers is convening a group to look at the availability of web-based products to provide remediation for both young and adult populations in math and other areas.
- The P-16 Council has convened teams of faculty and teachers, representatives of the Department of Education, and the postsecondary Council staff to align expectations and define college readiness in mathematics and literacy.

The staff will present its recommendations to the Council at the November meeting.

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